Thanikkudam Scheme.

166. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the Chief Engineer has submitted the final report (on the Thanikkudam Scheme) mentioned in answer to sub-division (e) to question No. 459 of the Legislative Session, 1106;

(b) if not what is the delay due to;

(c) if the report is submitted will the Government be pleased to make it available to the House;

(d) is the report in favour of the Scheme or against it?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) No.

(b) The Assistant Engineer's final report is being scrutinised by the Chief Engineer on various aspects.

(c) No answer is necessary in view of answer to sub-division (a).

(d) Do.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—When can we expect the report?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Sir, the Thanikkudam scheme has been devised to help the kole cultivation. I had occasion to state in this House many times that the possibilities of the Chalakkudi Diversion scheme ought to be given proper consideration before the Thanikkudam scheme is taken up. And since the quesion of the Chalakkudi Diversion is being taken up with the Travancore Durbar, it was thought a settlement of that question is a necessary preliminary to the taking and completion of the Thanikkudam scheme. So we are waiting for the dicision one way or the other, of the Chalakkudi Diversion scheme. Till then we have submitted reports for the proper cultivation of Kole lands by other means. Till that question is decided upon, I do not think there is any necessity to complete the Thanikkudam scheme.

167. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) what is the amount spent up-to-date upon (1) the Thanikkudam Scheme (2) the Chalakkudi Diversion Scheme;

(b) does the Government propose to do any substantial help to the large number of cultivators of kole lands?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) (1) and (2). It is not possible to furnish correct information as no separate accounts have been maintained for these schemes.

(b) The Chief Engineer's proposals in the matter are being considered by the Government.

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